

Hello My Name is Jennifer Haugland. I am a senior studying Animal Science at Montana State University.

I am a sixth generation Gallatin County resident and the fourth generation beef cattle rancher. I know what it is like to struggle to try and make ends meet. When I was in High School I was told that I was going to college, but would have to do so on my own. And I never expected anything different. Coming from an agricultural background I now how to work, I now the value of a dollar. And since it was legal to do so I had an additional job outside of home to help my family.

Out of necessity I have worked 30 plus hours weekly, through out my college career. I take pride in being able to support myself. However doing this has compromised my over all grade point average. Because I had to dedicate so much time to lessen my financial burden, I did not perform as highly academically as I could have. My academic achievement is not a reflection of my potential, and because of that I have numerous professors who know what my capability is, and support me whole-heartedly.

I excel in classes in the college of agriculture because I have experience with livestock that is rarely matched by students of my generation. I participated in numerous agricultural programs outside of my family ranch including 4-H for ten years, and FFA for 4. I have raised Cattle, horses, sheep,

goats, pigs, rabbits, and dogs, and I have trained and showed, and sold all of those animals mentioned.

The Montana Cooperative Veterinary Medicine Program was created for students like myself. Montana sees me as Jennifer Haugland a hard working student who has such a passion for rural veterinary medicine. However the WICHE schools see me as VMCAS applicant 20131112875, a student who has experience but is put to the bottom of the stack because of the overall grade point average. The WICHE schools have between 1,000-1,500 students apply every year, all competing for around 120 seats. The WICHE schools are going to do what is best for them, not what is best for Montana. If the cooperative program is established the admissions committee will be able to tailor make a class of Montana students that will serve Montana's needs. Montana needs veterinarians that are knowledgeable about livestock and who are willing to live in rural Montana. The problem with that, is the financial gap between the starting wages of a new veterinarians and the amount expected each month from the loans taken out. The cost of attending Veterinary school is the only thing that could deter me from goal of one day becoming a large animal veterinarian. If I am not admitted through the WICHE program, I will be moving out of state and establishing residency and applying again, because I cannot commit to the financial burden of being a non sponsored student for

four years. I am very realistic about my financial situation but I am not going to give up on my dream. I don't want Montana to lose students like myself because we are not valued as highly to other states. Young people are Montana's greatest asset; we love this state, and take pride in telling people where we are from. I never want to change my residency, but I will, in order to achieve my DVM. Thank you for taking time to hear our pleas for this program.